

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 8-11 with the following new paragraph:

The adventitious agent(s) which are sterilized and/or deactivated in accordance with the method of the invention include bacteria, mold, yeast, fungi, viruses, prions. Particular viruses that can be sterilized and/or deactivated are HIV, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, polio, herpes, parvo, west Nile, SARS.

Replace the paragraph at page 11, lines 1-17 with the following new paragraph:

When the biological material to be processed in accordance with the invention is bone, e.g., donor bone, the bone is preferably first defatted. Defatting can be achieved by any known or conventional process. Preferably, the bone is contacted with a defatting agent, preferably a liquid defatting agent to draw fat from the bone into the defatting agent, followed by separation of the defatting agent containing fat drawn from the bone from the defatted bone. Preferably, the defatting agent is a solvent for the fat contained in the bone. Solvents which can be used include aqueous ethanol which can optionally contain a non-ionic surfactant such as an alkylphenoxy polyethoxy ethanol, a commercially available example of which is Triton® X-100. Optionally, the defatting agent can contain a surfactant, preferably a non-ionic surfactant such as an alkylphenoxy polyethoxy ethanol. Defatting agent containing fat drawn from the bone can be separated from defatted bone by any suitable means, e.g., by centrifugation and decanting, preferably in a batch type centrifuge. If desired, defatting may be followed by desiccation, optionally under vacuum and at modestly elevated temperature if the nature of the biological material permits. Desiccation can be carried out about from about .9 torr to about 1 millitorr and preferably from about 0.5 torr to about 0.1 torr.